

What is claimed is:

1. A tissue rivet member, said rivet member comprising a shaft having a penetration head at its front end and a widened portion at its rear end, and projections extending radially from at least a portion of said shaft, whereby said projections restrict movement of said shaft when inserted in tissue.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 in which said rivet is made of a biodegradable material so that the rivet may dissolve in the body of the patient.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 in which said projections are flexible and are angled towards said rear end of said shaft.

4. The rivet of claim 1 in which said rear end of said rivet has an engaging means for removably engaging a rivet driving means.

5. The rivet of claim 4 in which said engaging means in said shaft comprises a depression in the rear of the shaft, for releasably engaging a complementary sphere of a driving means.

6. The rivet of claim 4 including a driving member, said driving member comprising a shaft having an engaging means at one end of said shaft for engaging the depression in said rear of said rivet.

7. The rivet of claim 4 in which said rivet is made of a pliable material and is deformable upon application of pressure, whereby said engaging means of said driver forms a snap attachment with said rivet.

8. The rivet of claim 7 in which said rivet is made of a biodegradable material.

9. A tissue rivet comprising a hollow shaft, said shaft having a truncated conical head at its front end, and a wide

portion at its rear end, said shaft having a plurality of projections extending from said shaft along at least a portion of said shaft to prevent movement of said shaft when said rivet is in tissue.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 in which said rivet is made of a biodegradable material.

11. The rivet of claim 10 including a driving means, said driving means comprising a shaft having a tapered tip, said tip forming the same angle as the cone of the rivet, whereby when the tip is fitted within the hollow shaft of the rivet, the surface of the cone forms a smooth transition to the conical head.

12. The rivet of claim 11 in which said rivet engages a shaft, the length of said shaft from the handle to the beginning of the tip being the length of said rivet.

13. A tissue screw having a screw thread along a portion of its shaft and a wide portion at its rear end, said screw being made of a biodegradable material.

Ans
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+ I3

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